

TSCA/iPCB Workgroup Meeting Summary

February 5, 2020

TSCA Members in Attendance:

Joel Breems (Avista)
David Darling (ACA)
Jeff Donovan (City of Spokane)
Ben Floyd (White Bluffs Consulting)
Lauren Heine (NW Green Chemistry)
Doug Krapas (Inland Empire Paper Co.)
Anna Montgomery (NWGC)
Michelle Mullin (EPA)
Cheryl Niemi (Ecology)
Michael Ober (TDSC)
Elsa Pond (WA DOT)
Karl Rains (Ecology)
Dean Weaver (WA DOT)
Lisa Dally Wilson (Dally Environmental)

TSCA Members not in Attendance:

Tom Agnew (Liberty Lake, LLSWD)
Adriane Borgias (Ecology)
Ben Carleton (Inland Empire Paper Co.)
Lucy Edmondson (EPA)
Doug Greenlund (City of Spokane)
Doug McClanahan (WA DOT)
Amelia Nestler (NGC)
Cadie Olson (City of Spokane)
Amanda Parrish (the Lands Council)
Mike Peterson (The Lands Council)
Jay West (American Chemistry Council)
Tammie Williams (WA DOT)

Agenda Items Discussed:

General:

- Dean Weaver, WA Department of Transportation Eastern Region, Archaeology and Cultural Resource Specialist ([[HYPERLINK "mailto:dean.weaver@wsdot.wa.gov"](mailto:dean.weaver@wsdot.wa.gov)], 509-324-6509) has been added to the TSCA Workgroup team at the request of Tammie Williams. **Action Doug K.**
- Ben Floyd requested that Lara Floyd be added to the Roster. **Action Doug K.**
- Dave Darling asked about the recent PMF analysis conducted by Lisa Rodenberg of Rutgers University and when that may become publicly available. Ben Floyd provided a March/April time frame for its release.
- Doug discussed a slight change to the meeting minutes that included some of the more pertinent historical notes for active projects to provide background and context, especially for new TSCA/iPCB members, non-members, or TSCA/iPCB member that may have missed meetings. No one was opposed to the new format.
- The EPA OPPT Grant was added as Item #7 to this agenda (see Item #7 notes below).

1. Road Paint Whitepaper:

- a. Anna provided an update on the progress of this work contracted to NWGC from the SRRTTF:
 - i. NWGC is currently reviewing previous interviews and conducting interviews of key individuals, including DES (Corina & Sundae Delgado)
 - ii. Elsa suggested that Doug McClanahan of WA DOT be added to the list of interviewees due to his involvement in implementing the new specification.

- iii. Another suggestion was made to add an advocacy piece to the whitepaper with suggested interviews with Mike Petersen, Heather Trim, Riverkeepers, etc.
- iv. NWGC will strive to have a draft to the TSCA/iPCB workgroup by the next meeting (March 4). **Action NWGC**

Historical Notes for this Project:

- b. The SRRTTF at the December meeting approved NWGC's proposal (\$2,460) to develop a "technical case study" whitepaper building on the work of journalist Sonja Elmquist.
 - c. NWGC was not in attendance of this TSCA/iPCB Workgroup meeting to provide an update on their progress. Doug K. followed up with Anna for an update. NWGC intends to conduct interviews in the next couple weeks and will be drafting the whitepaper shortly thereafter with a draft likely in February for TSCA Workgroup member review. NWGC expects about 2 months to complete the work, depending upon SRRTTF review and approval process. NWGC is still awaiting contract information from ACE SRRTTF, but this is not holding up work. **Action NWGC & ACE**
 - d. Doug K. had suggested that David Darling from ACA, Elsa Pond from DOT and someone from DES be interviewed in addition to himself, as all were key players.
 - e. The group reviewed a prior action item related to the road paint project effort that was the follow-up evaluation of the specification change with municipalities using these "non-diarylide" paints:
 - i. David Darling suggested evaluating impacts from the supply side due to the China pigment supply concerns (plant explosion), available manufacturers/products, and any DES related purchasing issues.
 - ii. Elsa believes that it is still too premature as DOT and DES are still evaluating the supply chain concerns, availability of manufacturers/products, and effectiveness of the allowance in the purchasing process.
 - iii. Doug M. reported that the DOT has been using these products for some time and have 5 to 10 pigments to choose from. They have not experienced any problems with drying time, durability and other performance related parameters.
 - iv. Based on the above, the group decided to table this action and bring up for reconsideration in 2021.
2. **OECD** (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development):
- a. Doug provided a summary of the presentation delivered by Doug and Lauren Heine to the OECD in Paris, France on Monday, February 3rd, 2020. A complete summary is provided in the attached "*Summary of OECD Presentation_020320*"
 - b. Karl suggested adding the OECD Agenda and our PowerPoint to the meeting minutes. **Action Doug K.**

Historical Notes for this Project:

- c. The SRRTTF approved sponsorship of OECD application at the December meeting. Mike P. expressed a concern with the risk assessment of lower level congeners discussed

in the application. Doug K. stated that the SRRTTF would be permitted additional information if the case study is accepted by OECD and that would be the appropriate time for the SRRTTF to suggest any revisions.

- d. Doug K. and Lauren Heine are scheduled to present the case study to the OECD at a workshop in Paris, France on Monday, February 3. The presentation is due to OECD no later than Friday, January 24. A draft of the presentation will be provided for SRRTTF approval at the phone-con meeting on January 22. (**Action Doug K & NWGC – Done**)

3. **Update on PCB EPA Method 1668 study of TiO₂:** Michael Ober provided an update on the status of the study.

- a. Jay West was unavailable for this meeting, but sent the following email message regarding the status of the QAPP for this project: *“I wanted to let you know about target dates for the TDSC’s testing project. Our goal is to get a draft to the TSCA WG by 20 February, and we’ll need comments back by March 2. Then we’ll target March 11 for getting a revision to the full SRRTTF for approval at the March 24 meeting.”*

Historical Notes for this Project:

- b. “Environmental Standards Inc.” ([HYPERLINK "<https://www.envstd.com/>"]), selected as the 3rd party to develop the QAPP and perform data analysis for the TDSC is in the process of finalizing the QAPP. Michael expects a draft of the QAPP to be completed in February of 2020 for TDSC membership review and approval. Due to anti-trust concerns this is going to be a back and forth process with no firm timeline for completion. **Action M. Ober**
- c. They would like to begin sampling in the 1st quarter of 2020, so the SRRTTF will need to expedite approval.
- d. As previously discussed, there were now only be three (3) categories of TiO₂ samples based on highest volumes of use, greatest nexus to the Spokane River and produced by Chloride process:
 - 1. Paints and Coatings
 - 2. Plastics
 - 3. Paper and Paperboard Packaging

4. **PCB's in products data base updates:**

- a. Mike P. contacted Lisa Rodenburg after the holidays regarding Rutgers hosting the data base. Lisa said to be patient as she is still waiting to hear back from the Rutgers decision makers. **Action Mike P.**
- b. Cheryl stated that she uses the CompTox data base to evaluate toxics in products.
- c. The group has expressed some concerns over the user friendliness of the CompTox data base and its suitability for our intended use.
- d. Both EPA and Ecology are sponsoring workshops in February regarding use of the CompTox data base. Karl, Jeff, Doug, Elsa, Cheryl, Lauren and Mike P. plan to attend.
- e. Michelle suggested submitting any questions we have ahead of the workshop.

5. EPA research opportunities:

a. iPCB Key words for Scholarly Articles:

- i. Michelle stated that EPA is resource limited and is focused on higher priority projects such as site clean-ups and iPCB product testing (see below Children's Product Testing), so this particular project has been assigned a lower priority and is currently on the back burner.

b. Children's Product Testing:

- i. This remains a work in progress, as EPA attempts to understand the variability of the results and other environmental influences (air emissions, dust adsorption, etc.)

Historical Notes for this Project:

- ii. EPA recently completed a pilot project testing children's products using Method 1668.
 - iii. EPA found a difference between the results of their study of similar products to that conducted by Ecology, and even variability amongst the same products (i.e.: yellow glitter foam sheets).
 - iv. PCB-11 was the most prevalent congener detected.
 - v. EPA is using a different lab (ORD) and extraction methods than that used by Ecology.
 - vi. Michelle was not sure what if any blank correction methods were being used, but will find out for our next meeting. **Action Michelle M. (also, when is report expected?)**
- c. NTP risk study of various Congeners and Aroclors: NTP is evaluating toxicity of PCB congeners 11, 95, 126, 153 and Aroclors 1016 and 1254. **Action EPA Follow-up**
- i. Michelle did not have any status updates

6. iPCB Workshop:

- a. In our prior meeting, David Darling had suggested projects to evaluate PCB-11 in comparison to other dioxin-like congeners and provided the following for consideration: evaluate rates of degradation, bioaccumulation potential, explore methods to handle PCB-11 differently.
- b. Lauren suggested we connect this to EPA research, the NTP outcome and explore how TSCA could handle differently.
- c. Doug K. suggested making this a priority discussion for the next TSCA/iPCB workgroup meeting due to time constraints. **Action Doug K.**

Historical Notes for this Project:

- d. Discussion ensued regarding the ongoing NWGC webinar efforts under the Bullitt Foundation grant.

- e. The NWGC advocacy groups were reported to be poorly attended, so TSCA Workgroup members were encouraged to join one of the groups to carry on the work of the iPCB workshop
- f. David Darling stated that he is still not receiving the announcements for these meetings. Doug K. will forward the NWGC 12/17 announcement to the TSCA Workgroup Members. (**Action Doug K. – Done!**)
- g. The following TSCA Workgroup members present for this meeting were attending the following
 - i. Government/Regulatory – Elsa, Karl & Cheryl
 - ii. Technical Considerations – Jeff
 - iii. Policy/Advocacy – Doug (Mike P. stated he will join this group **Action Mike P.**)
- h. The benefit of consolidating into one group versus three was discussed to improve attendance, minimize the number of meetings and diversify the brainstorming talent. After much debate, it was agreed that separate groups addressing each of these very diverse topics was more prudent at this time.
- i. Also suggestions to better define the purpose, goals and outcomes of each NWGC workgroup would be beneficial to provide better definition and guidance.
- j. There has been some confusion as to the difference between the Government/Regulatory and Policy/Advocacy workgroups. Doug K. explained that the Policy/Advocacy was not government related policy, but Corporate policy, so the suggestion was made to define as Corporate policy/Advocacy to better define.
- k. Doug K. will follow up with Anna M. to discuss the above concerns/suggestions. (**Action Doug K. – Done!**)
- l. With the Bullitt Foundation funding running out at the end of the 1st quarter, robust discussion and strategic planning is needed to carry on the energy created by the iPCB workshop. **Action Item for future discussion**
- m. Historical Notes for this Project:
- n. As a follow-up to the workshop, NWGC is conducting webinars to further develop the three main categories of interest:
 - i. Government/Regulatory – two meetings held in November with good attendance.
 - ii. Technical Considerations – one meeting in November with good attendance
 - iii. Policy/Advocacy – one meeting in November with poor attendance
- o. NWGC will send out the presentations and notes by the end of the week.
- p. Review of key points from the work groups:
 - i. A lot of questions remain around key issues such as toxicity of iPCBs.
 - ii. A lot of emphasis on Brands impacting the decision makers.
 - iii. The Sustainable Packaging Coalition (SPC) was absent from our iPCB workshop due to a conflicting conference, but is having another conference in late March in Austin, TX which may serve as a good opportunity to present on the iPCB concern.

- iv. SPC members are not aware of the iPCB concern.
- v. Questions that Brands should be asking of suppliers and policies that they could implement.
- q. Elsa missed the 2nd Government/Regulatory meeting as she never received the email announcement.
- r. Karl also confirmed that he did not receive the invite
- s. Karl questioned the funding sources of NWGC's continuing work and its applicability to SRRTTF guidelines for reporting. Anna confirmed that funding did not include SRRTTF funds for this ongoing work, and was using Bullitt foundation funding that will continue through March of 2020. The Bullitt foundation will be closing its doors thereafter, so there may be some Ecology PPG funding to continue this work.
- t. We need to encourage SRRTTF members to participate in this ongoing NWGC work to further advance the efforts from the iPCB workshop.

7. The EPA OPPT Grant:

- a. Mike P. (absent) via email asked if anyone knew about the status of the Columbia River Toxics Grant that the Lands Council submitted an application. Karl stated that EPA received 24 applications that are currently under review. EPA expects to award the successful grants in June/July 2020.
- b. Karl mentioned that Adriane believes that the SRRTTF is well positioned for these types of grants due to our cross boundary watershed and diversity of interests.
- c. Karl stated that we need to define projects with scopes of work so packages are ready to go upon notice of grant opportunities.
- d. Lisa stated that the TTWG should develop a full list of projects for this purpose, but the funding workgroup should develop a boiler plate grant proposal.
- e. Ben suggested that the TTWG and Funding Workgroups develop a coordinated strategy and might consider using current funding to support this effort. Karl will put this request onto the Funding workgroup agenda for discussion and bring recommendations to SRRTTF for consideration. **Action Lisa & Karl**

8. Other:

- a. None